



Stop Suffering!

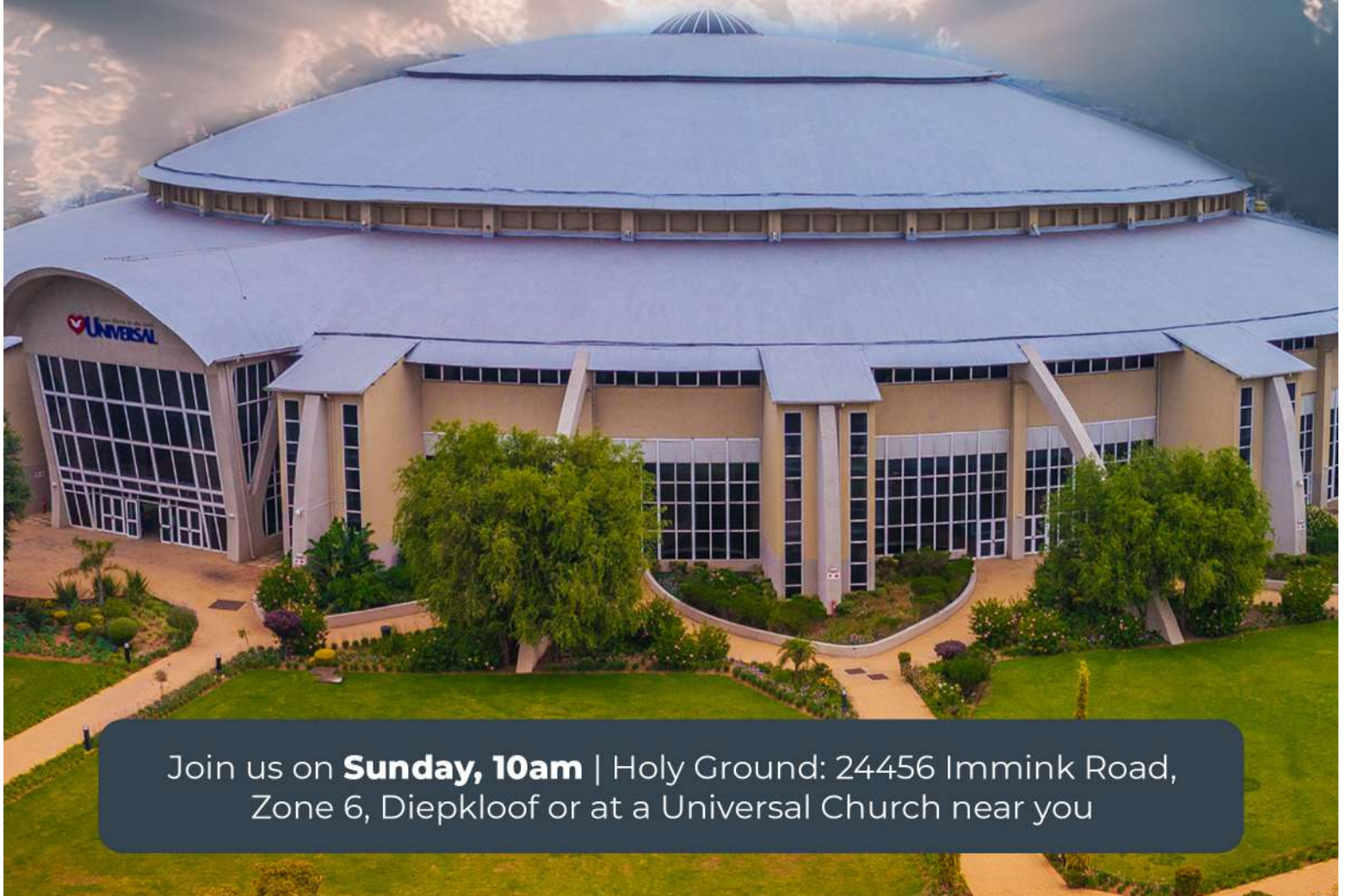
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Sunday of Great MIRACLES AND POWER

COME TO RECEIVE THE POWER TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE



Join us on **Sunday, 10am** | Holy Ground: 24456 Immink Road,
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HOW TO BE SURE THAT GOD IS WITH US

Message by Bishop Macedo

Prioritising the kingdom of God and His righteousness gives you a clear mind and deeper understanding. God opens your spiritual eyes to see beyond the ordinary. When you allow His kingdom to guide your thoughts, the Holy Spirit directs your every step, giving you what you need for each day.

"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them." 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

Apostle Paul explained that the god of this age, the devil, has blinded the minds of those who do not believe using lusts, the media, and vanities, all to distract them. This creates a breeding ground for pride and a relentless desire for

success, to prove their self-made achievements. However, we only attain true fulfilment in life when we submit to God's kingdom. So, how can someone receive the Holy Spirit without following God's laws and guidance? It's impossible! God does not demand infallibility from us, for we all make mistakes and sin. He understands our weaknesses and failures. Following Jesus means seeking forgiveness and striving to change our ways so that they align with His will.

God is with those who surrender their lives to Him and assumes full responsibility for their lives. When we choose to serve God and allow Him to guide our minds, and we choose to do His will, He ensures that we lack nothing, spiritual and otherwise. So how can you know if God is truly with you? When you know for certain that you are with Him.

Hope in Difficult Times

Life can feel overwhelming when you are facing difficult challenges, and you might start questioning your self-worth and thinking that your life is worthless. Do not allow such thoughts to plague your mind. Know that your life is valuable, and that you can overcome whatever obstacles or challenges you are facing.

Whether you are struggling with your finances or relationships, or pursuing an elusive dream, trust that God has the power to turn things around for you. The journey to success starts with you changing your mindset. Stop dwelling on the negative thoughts that tell you that happiness and success are impossible. Instead, choose to believe in the power of positivity: you plant positive thoughts and actions, you reap positive outcomes.

Faith in God is transformative! Although the solution will not come easily or automatically, as if by some magic, putting your trust in God will give you the strength you need to rise above your current circumstances and to persevere when the going gets tough. The Word of God confirms this:

"But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded!" 2 Chronicles 15:7

Being strong is a choice you make in your mind. Your thoughts have the power to influence every aspect of your life, from your daily choices to your overall life trajectory. Make a conscious decision to shift from pessimism to positivity. Though family conflicts and personal struggles may seem challenging, keep going and do not stop until you overcome.

Let God change your life. Let Him guide you as you embark on a new journey and help you overcome the troubles and problems you encounter along the way. With God at your side, you will certainly find good success.

God bless you,

Bishop Marcelo Pires
mp@mpires.org



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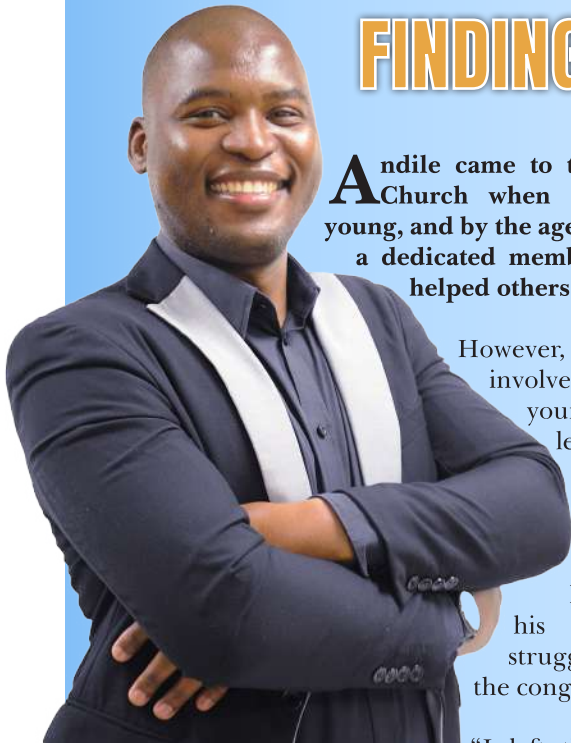


TO LEARN MORE:



FINDING JOY AND FULFILMENT

By Tania Nguanda | uckg.org.za



Andile came to the Universal Church when he was very young, and by the age of 14, he was a dedicated member who even helped others.

However, an involvement with a young woman led him into a confrontation with his pastor. Although he realised his mistake, he struggled to face the congregation.

“I left the church at 16 because I was judging myself rather harshly,” Andile reflected. He then began a life of drinking and partying. Despite seeming to enjoy himself, Andile felt conflicted and haunted by thoughts of mortality and salvation, wondering, “If I die like this, where will my soul go?”

Throughout this period, Andile’s mother never stopped praying for him. Her efforts were not in vain. At the end of his matric year, Andile realised that he was not happy and needed a change of life. He returned to the church and committed to transforming his life by quitting old habits and bad friendships.



Reflecting on his water baptism, he said, “From that day on, I never looked back because I was tired of my old life. I wanted to live a peaceful life.”

He committed to doing God’s will, which led to a profound spiritual experience. “When I received the Holy Spirit, I felt peace, and my guilt and shame were removed.”

Now Andile is happily married, has his own business and has found the peace and happiness he yearned for. “I don’t desire to go back to that life,” he said, “because I know how it feels to live without God. Being in the presence of God is something I will never exchange for anything.”

I ONLY DATED UNFAITHFUL MEN

By Tania Nguanda | uckg.org.za

My love life was deeply troubled. Although I tried to be faithful in my relationships, I became involved with one unfaithful man after another. The situation dramatically worsened when I started dating a married man, naïvely thinking that he would remain loyal to both me and his wife. That was a disastrous mistake.

I was constantly riddled with guilt and always afraid of being discovered, and we could only meet in secret. When I tried to end the relationship, he threatened me with violence, and because I knew he owned a weapon, I felt trapped and afraid.

An unexpected church invitation transformed everything. After attending services at the Universal Church, I found the

strength to decisively end our affair and embrace a life of faith.

My past had made me skeptical about marriage, but when I started taking part in the Therapy of Love, my eyes opened to new possibilities. I surrendered my love life to God, and I soon met and later married a loving and faithful man.



We’ve now shared 17 wonderful years together in the same faith and love, and we are both loyal to God and to each other,” said Mary.

CELEBRATION OF WEDDINGS

THURSDAY

1 MAY 2025

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PODCAST

ESCAPING INNER HELL

By Tania Nguanda | uckg.org.za



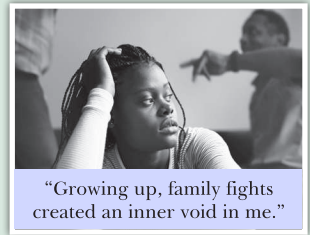
“Growing up, family fights created an inner void in me. Although I already attended services at the Universal Church, I doubted God because my home life seemed to grow worse. Tertiary level rejections led to depression, and I treated faith as something routine.

I dated to fit in but remained unhappy, and I often thought about committing suicide. Nothing filled the emptiness inside me.

Realising that I needed to change, I committed to truly changing how I approached matters of faith, and later got

baptised in water. I did not want to enter into 2025 the way I was. When I finally surrendered to God sincerely and received the Holy Spirit, everything changed.

Now I have deep communion with God and true joy from within. I am no longer depressed or suicidal. Regardless of the challenges I may face, I have the assurance that God is by my side, and with Him, I can overcome any obstacle,” said Lerato.✉



“Growing up, family fights created an inner void in me.”

TURNING PAIN INTO PURPOSE

By Tania Nguanda | uckg.org.za

“My journey at the Universal Church began in 2014, when I attended services because of the activities of the youth group, despite not fully understanding the messages in the services. Life was tough from very early on. At the age of 11,

I became my sister’s caregiver while our mother was away. Our grandmother worked as a domestic worker and only came home on weekends. Her emotional abuse and my father’s periodic abandonments left deep scars.

Though I excelled in school and reached university, depression took hold. I sought validation in unhealthy relationships and struggled

academically. By early 2024, I was overwhelmed by suicidal thoughts and despair. Everything changed when a pastor’s wife’s testimony moved me to seek help. After 10 years, I finally opened up to the pastor about my struggles.

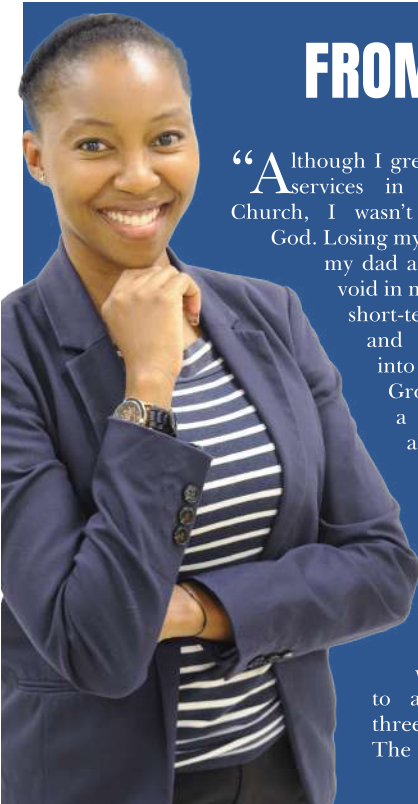
Through the water baptism, prayer and renewed faith, I found healing. I reconciled with my grandmother and ended all my toxic relationships.

The bitterness and pain transformed into peace and purpose. Now my life centres on God and I live to share His love with others,” said Thembi.✉



FROM ANGER TO THREE SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

By Albertine Chitswa | uckg.org.za



“Although I grew up attending services in the Universal Church, I wasn’t committed to God. Losing my mom at 11 and my dad at 16 left a deep void in my life. I became short-tempered, angry and constantly got into physical fights. Growing up in a family where alcohol was common only worsened things. As I got older, my anger turned into deep depression, which led me to attempt suicide three times. The first time, I



was on my way to visit my grandmother, who was a social worker. On the way to her office, I threw myself in front of a car. I remember seeing it coming and jumping in front of it, but somehow, it didn’t hit me.

Because of my anger and depression, I wasn’t open to anyone. I was very closed off and preferred to keep to myself. Even though I attended church services and was part of the youth group, I didn’t believe I could change or experience peace.

Everything changed in one service when I heard this verse: “I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word

of God abides in you.” That moment stayed with me and prompted me to change. I fully committed to attending services for spiritual growth and deliverance. I practised everything I learnt in the church. I read my Bible and I sought the Holy Spirit. I also started praying for the transformation of my family. Over time, my life transformed.

Now, I no longer struggle with anger or suicidal thoughts. My family, which was once divided by conflict and alcohol, now has peace. God has blessed me with incredible opportunities, I was given a scholarship and I landed jobs that helped me grow professionally and improved my finances, all of which enabled me to support my family.

The void, anger and despair I once felt are gone. I am no longer depressed or suicidal. My life has completely turned around, and I am genuinely happy. Through God, I’ve found purpose, peace and joy,” said S’lindiwe.✉

The void, anger and despair I once felt are gone. I am no longer depressed or suicidal. My life has completely turned around, and I am genuinely happy. Through God, I’ve found purpose, peace and joy,” said S’lindiwe.✉

BURDENED WITH GUILT

By Albertine Chitswa | uckg.org.za



“I grew up happy, but everything changed when my parents separated. My mother had to work long hours and I was left to care for my sick aunt. As a child, this responsibility was too overwhelming.

When my aunt passed away in my arms, I was left heartbroken and burdened with guilt because I felt I could have done more to help her.

Around that time, I was accepted into college, which gave me a sense of relief. I was happy to be on my own, free from the responsibilities and the traumatic environment I had grown up in. However, when I was in college, I started drinking alcohol, smoking and partying. I felt like I was finally making up for the childhood I had missed because I had been forced to grow up too

soon. My excessive drinking led me to skip classes because of hangovers. I failed my courses and ended up losing my bursary. This deepened my hopelessness and reinforced my belief that I wasn't good enough.

Eventually, I moved from the Eastern Cape to Johannesburg to live with my mother, who was already attending services in the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God. She invited me to attend services with her, and at first, I only went there because I had nothing else to do. I felt compelled to go there, but one day during a service, the message seemed to speak directly to me. It was as if the pastor knew everything I was going through. That moment marked the beginning of my decision to give my life to God.

I stopped drinking, smoking and partying. I committed myself to God and got baptised in water. I started participating in youth meetings and church services, which helped me heal and grow spiritually.

Today, I am completely free, filled with joy and living to serve God. I managed to complete my studies and I am now working. The traumas of my past no longer define me and I am grateful for the new life I've found in God's presence” said Musa.✉

A Woman's Unspoken Nightmare

By Tania Nguanda | uckg.org.za

“Growing up without knowing my parents created a deep void in my life. I was raised by my elderly grandmother in a cramped home, and I often wondered why my mother was absent from my life. The abuse and constant comparisons to my mother made me bitter.

At 14, a devastating sexual assault made me feel even worse about myself and I turned to alcohol to numb my pain, but this only trapped me in a destructive cycle. At 18, I was forced to live with an older man who subjected me to horrific physical, verbal, emotional, and sexual abuse, making me despise my very existence. I fled to my aunt's place in Johannesburg, hoping for relief. However, I still felt



isolated and empty. Desperate for love and attention, I fell into destructive patterns, dating older men for money and drinking excessively.

When I came to the Universal Church, something unexpected happened. Despite my initial resentment towards God, the preaching and prayers offered me unexpected hope. Gradually, I committed to my faith, cut off toxic relationships and dedicated myself to spiritual growth.

Through prayer and faith, God transformed my life. I now have joy and peace from within. I no longer feel alone. I have also been freed from addiction and my past traumas,” said Queen.✉

♥ Stop Suffering!



If you are going through difficulties and do not see a way out, ask God's help today. Write down below your problems and take it to the nearest Universal Church to you.

Find a list of addresses on the last page or call our 24h Toll-free Helpline:

0800 330 320

I SOLD MY CLOTHES TO FEED MY KIDS

By Tania Nguanda | uckg.org.za



“I was unemployed, struggling and feeling empty. Life was hard—I had two children but no money for food or school supplies. To make ends meet, I sold my clothes just to feed my kids. Sometimes, the school provided lunch, which helped, but I still felt like I was failing as a mother. I felt frustrated and useless.

Then I found the Universal Church. I learned to use my faith in the chains of prayer, specifically for our struggles. I began praying on Mondays and Saturdays for my finances and on Wednesdays and Sundays for my spiritual growth. I learned that I had to trust God completely. Though I had

problems, I understood that I needed to seek the kingdom of God first, then everything else would be added. That was when I decided to get baptised in water and commit my life to God.

I prayed earnestly, reading the Bible and the books of the church and seeking the Holy Spirit. When I received the Holy Spirit, the emptiness inside me disappeared.

Shortly afterwards, I found a job and my life began to transform. Today, I am happy and content. My children have finished school and I can provide for them. The void that once consumed me is gone; it's been replaced by joy and faith.

Looking back, I realise that the void stemmed from frustration and hopelessness. Being unemployed and constantly battling negative thoughts overwhelmed me, and I questioned my worth and God's presence.

Now I see how faith and perseverance brought light to my life. I thank God every day for the peace and blessings I have received,” said Lydia. 📖

My Journey Through Darkness

By Tania Nguanda | uckg.org.za

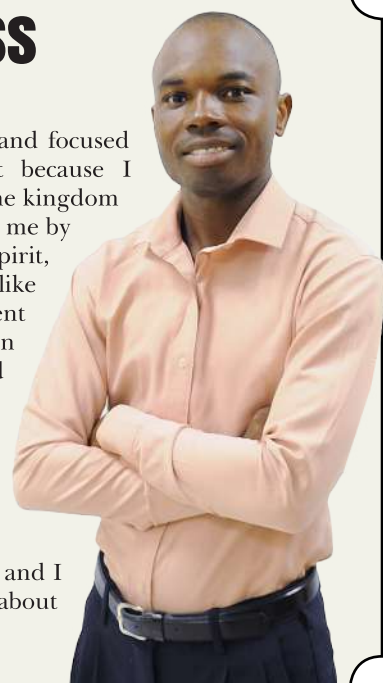
“I was completely lost —drinking, smoking, stealing and running with the wrong crowd. My life changed when a friend invited me to the Universal Church. There I invested in the chains of prayers for a financial breakthrough and for deliverance from addictions and wrong ways of living. I was delivered from my addictions, which made me more committed to doing what pleases God.

Everything went well until my 2-year long relationship ended. The breakup plunged me into depression, and I started having suicidal thoughts. I stopped reading the Bible and praying, and I eventually stopped going to church altogether.

My turning point came when I was invited back to church. After speaking with the pastor, I realised that I needed the Holy Spirit to strengthen me and help me remain faithful to God, no matter the circumstances.

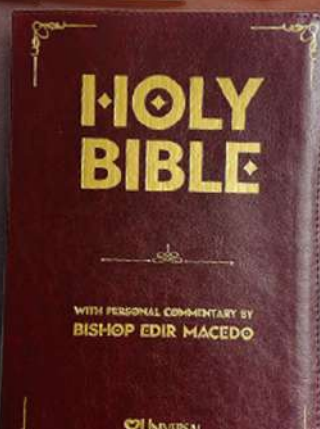
I surrendered my life to God and focused on my spiritual development because I learned that I needed to seek the kingdom of God first. When God blessed me by baptising me with the Holy Spirit, I experienced His presence like never before. That moment transformed me. The depression and suicidal thoughts vanished and were replaced by immense peace.

Now I'm self-employed, living independently and completely free from my past struggles. God takes care of me and I no longer have fears or doubts about life or myself,” said Alex. 📖



Get your Bible

With personal commentary
by bishop Edir Macedo





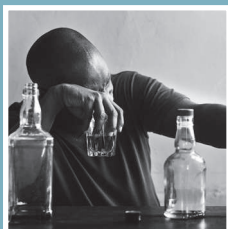
I WANTED TO BUY A GUN TO HURT OTHERS

By Albertine Chitswa | uckg.org.za

“My father was absent from my life, and that left a void inside me. I was filled with anger because of his absence. This anger started in primary school, where I joined a criminal group. We used to rob and bully other kids at school.


I started drinking alcohol and smoking. By the time I reached high school, I was exposed to even more criminal activities. I often harboured dark thoughts, including wanting to buy a gun to harm others. I carried knives and other weapons, which I used to rob people. I did all this to fill the emptiness inside me.

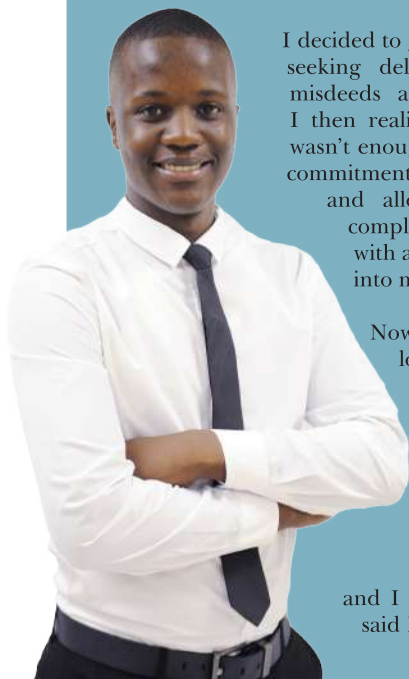
As time went on, I started going to nightclubs and dating multiple women. I was feared by many people in my community and known for my menacing behaviour. I remember the day when I almost stabbed someone with a screwdriver during a fight.



Eventually, my mother forced me to attend services in the Universal Church, even though I was rather reluctant. At first, I only went there to please her. Over time, the messages of faith started to affect me. I started feeling guilty about the life I was living and the things I had done.

I decided to give up my bad habits. I started seeking deliverance from my past and misdeeds and was eventually delivered. I then realised that only being delivered wasn't enough, I needed to make a deeper commitment. I got baptised in water and allowed God to transform me completely. I sought the Holy Spirit with all my heart, and when He came into my life, everything changed.

Now, I have peace and joy. I no longer struggle with anger or negative emotions. I no longer desire to buy a gun or to harm others. I don't drink or smoke and I no longer go to nightclubs or date different women. I am a law-abiding citizen. I am filled with the presence of God, and I now live to glorify His name,” said Keabetsoe. 



ALCOHOL COULD NOT NUMB MY PAIN

By Albertine Chitswa | uckg.org.za


Growing up without a father exposed Aderito to a life of poverty. At times, they had no food to eat and lived on handouts. The situation was so difficult that he was forced to drop out of school. He hoped that his life would eventually improve after he got married, but he was disappointed when his wife left him for another man.

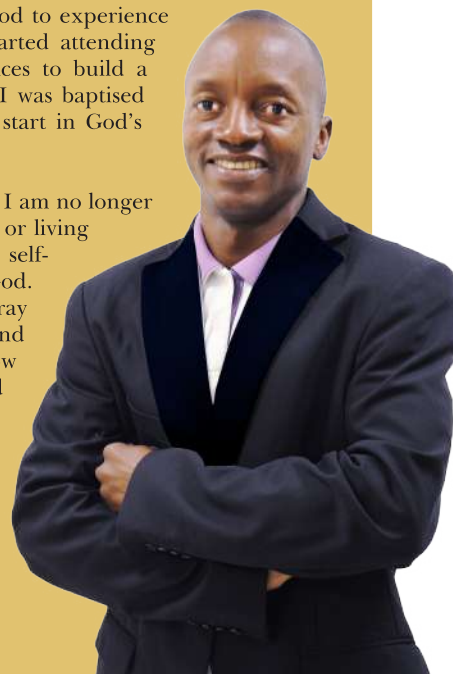
“I turned into a depressed and short-tempered person and I also suffered from a mysterious sickness which doctors could not diagnose. It caused me pain and made it difficult for me to sleep. I turned to alcohol and a reckless lifestyle, but that did not take away the pain I was trying to escape.

I remained in this situation for about three years, until I received an invitation to attend a service in the Universal Church. I went there on a Monday and was introduced to the different chains of prayers. I was advised to attend services on Fridays and Saturdays for deliverance. The more I committed myself in the chains of prayers, the more I started seeing changes in my life. I was freed from my addiction and I was healed from the sickness I had.



Then I started learning about spiritual growth. The pastor explained that, although I had been delivered, I still needed the presence of God to experience complete transformation. I started attending Wednesday and Sunday services to build a closer relationship with God. I was baptised in water to symbolise a fresh start in God's presence.

Now I am a transformed man. I am no longer depressed, addicted to alcohol or living a reckless life. Now, I have self-control and guidance from God. When I face challenges, I pray and surrender them to God and follow His guidance on how to resolve them. I also joined the soul-winners group in the church to help bring others to God. I am married and am a good husband and father. In my community, people recognise my transformation, and I owe it all to God,” said Aderito. 



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Alexandra 1: 698 Pretoria Main Road, Cnr Link Road

Benoni: 70 Cranbourne Avenue (Next to African Bank)

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Kagiso: 3362 Cnr Ngalonkulu Thulandivile Drive, Hillsideview

Park Station: 25 Plein Street, Johannesburg

Randburg 1: 4 Dover Street & Cnr Bram Fischer, (Opp. Garden Mall)

Tembisa 1: 87 Koti Street, Lifateng, Tembisa, 1632

Thokoza 1: 1838 Rakoma Street (Opp Shell Garage)

Pretoria (Tshwane)

Pretoria: 175 Nana Sita Street (Old Skinner Street), Pretoria Central

Hammanskraal: 4411 Unit 01 Temba, Kudube

Mabopane: 2733 Block B (Next to Tlamelong Clinic)

Mamelodi: No. 1 Dobolwane Street, Cnr Tsamaya Road, Mamelodi West (Next to Denneboom Station)

Vaal Triangle

Vanderbijlpark: Shop No. 4, CR Swart Street

Sebokeng: 392 Moshoeshoe Street, Zone 10

Vereeniging: Shop 1, 8 Kruger Avenue (Opp Sassa)

WESTERN CAPE

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Khayelitsha: 54 Ntsikizi Street, Ilitha Park

George: 121 Cradock St CBD (Next to Golden Harvest)

EASTERN CAPE

East London: 5 Gladstone Street

Port Elizabeth: 45 Norongo Road & Cnr Sopazi Street, New Brighton

Umtata: 36 Owen Street (next to Botha Sigcau Building)

NORTHERN CAPE

Kimberley: 44 Sidney Street

Upington: Rosebuds Shopping Centre, Leeukop Street, Cnr Drakensberg Street

KWAZULU NATAL

Durban: 465 Anton Lembede Street (Opp. Durdoc Centre)

Newcastle: Shop 13/14 LOT 627 - 64 Allen Street

Pinetown: 40 Kings Road, Above Chester butcheries, Pinetown.

Pietermaritzburg: 399 Church Street (Opp. Capital Centre)

FREE STATE

Bloemfontein: 60 Oliver Tambo Road

QwaQwa: Shop #2 Midtown Shopping Center Phuthaditjhaba

Welkom: 4 Kort street - CBD Mario's Taxi Rank Complex

LIMPOPO

Polokwane: Shop 3, 20 Jorrisen Street

MPUMALANGA

Nelspruit: 40 Bester Street, next to Home Choice

Witbank: 8 Arras Street, Witbank CBD

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